

REMARKS

Claims 18-32 remain in this application. Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18-20 and 29-31 have been amended. No claims have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 27-21 and 32. The Examiner has also objected to claims 18, 20 and 29-31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing these claims. Claims 27-21 and 32 are presented herein. Claims 18, 20 and 29-31 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19 and 28 have been amended to depend on one of the allowed claims. Accordingly, claims 27-21 and 32, claims 18, 20 and 29-31, and claims 19 and 28, are all believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection - Horii et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 28 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,687,010 issued to Horii et al.

These claims have been cancelled. Therefore the rejection is moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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